Vera

Vera, Dec. 5.— Sgt. Russell A. Chernault, of Washington, D. C., spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Chernault.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Harris and son, Pete spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Chernault.

Miss Catherine Page, of Lynchburg spent a few days last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Page.

Schools are closed this week on account of sickness.

J. J. Chernault killed a turkey Monday.

James Beale, of Lynchburg, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Beale.

Pfc. Henry E. Chernault, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Chernault, is stationed in Texas.

Phone 30 with personals.

Victory Loan drive next end

Truman offers suggestion for way to curb strikes.

GM hopes to end walk-out.

Claim Chinese Reds have an air force.

UNO bill passed by Senate.

Traffic hazardous as sleet gathers on highways.

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Evolution Given Of Santa Claus

St. Nicholas and Santa Claus met at the Sunday School Christmas party and, being sort of busy right then, agreed to rendezvous at midnight under the Christmas tree.

St. Nicholas, a lean Asiatic wearing his miter and canonical robes, spoke first.

"I lived in Asia Minor some 1600 years ago. I was Archbishop of Myra and, while living on earth, I did quite a few purses of gold down a poor man's chimney so his daughters could be supplied with dowries. European countries celebrate my liturgical Feast Day — December 6—as a day of gift-giving and, for centuries, I rode across Europe on my old gray mare; my pockets bulged with apples and nuts and trinkets, which I gave to good children while switching the naughty

Santa at army outpost.

ones with my bundle of birch rods. But what is all this Christmas business—and where did that red suit come from?"

"When the Dutch settlers came to America," replied Santa Claus, "They brought many legends about St. Nicholas with them. These legends, with writers and cartoonists cooperating, gradually slipped into American traditions; Santa Claus started coming around at Christmas time; Washington Irving suggested the sleigh and reindeer in 1809; Thomas Nast supplied the red suit, and Dr. Clement Moore sort of tied the whole idea together when he wrote 'The Visit of St. Nicholas' in 1822."

Someone forgot to turn out the lights after the Sunday School party—and St. Nicholas was so interested in Santa's zippered boots that he forgot his bundle of birch rods.

Christmas Plant Was Named for U. S. Diplomat

Poinsettia Brought Here From Mexico Adopted As Christmas Plant.

Poinsettias which have come to be a "must" for home Christmas decorations owe their name and popularity to an early American diplomat, botanist and scholar—Joel Roberts Poinsett.

Nearly a century and a quarter ago, Poinsett, then U. S. ambassador to Mexico, first brought cuttings of the "fire plant" to his South Carolina home. Carefully he tended the transplanted tropical beauty. Under his skillful hands the flower thrived and multiplied.

Soon the fame of this colorful new plant spread to other states and Robert Buist, a Philadelphia botanist, brought some cuttings from Poinsett. He named them euphorbia poinsettia.

Since that day enthusiasts not only in the United States but throughout the world have continued to improve the poinsettia, until today there are a score of varieties from giant six-foot stalks to diminutive dwarfs, double and single varieties, green poinsettias with red veins, white varieties and a gradation of reds from the traditional flaming scarlets to pale pinks.

Besides serving as ambassador to Mexico, Poinsett was a member of congress from South Carolina and served as secretary of war in President Van Buren's cabinet. He was a personal friend of Presidents Madison, Monroe, Jackson and Van Buren.

New Amsterdam Dutch Brought Santa Claus Across With Them

The American version of Santa Claus was found chiefly in New York until a paper in that city published the poem we know as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," then it spread rapidly over the whole country and now every community has a similar legend.

It all began about 300 years ago. When the Dutch boys and girls first came to America in the early 17th century, and settled in New Amsterdam, they brought Sinter

The Dutch "Sinter Klaas" from whom our Santa Claus descends represents the bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, who was noted for his charity and goodness. In the Dutch pageants, Sinter Klaas rides on a white horse, accompanied by his servant "Black Piet."

Klaas with them, and Sinter Klaas Eve was still their most important day. After a time, the English took Amsterdam from the Dutch and named it New York.

Many years before this, the English had had a Saint Nicholas celebration. In the English celebration, the choir boys elected a boy bishop and for a week boys went around the town begging gifts, but these festivities had been stopped by royal decree. When the English took over New York, the Dutch boys and girls kept right on celebrating Sinter Klaas day in spite of the English laws. Later Norwegian and Belgian children who settled in and near New York, also celebrated the day in a similar manner. It wasn't long before English boys and girls wanted to receive gifts. Since they already were celebrating Christ's birthday on December 25, they chose that day as the one on which to exchange gifts. The English children called Sinter Klaas Santa Claus.

As more and more people of different nationalities came to America, each added its bit to the celebration of Santa Claus day. From the Norwegians came his reindeer, the Italians gave us the custom of hanging up our stockings and so on. The regal figure of Sinter Klaas slowly changed to the fat, jolly Santa Claus of today.

Reason for Eight Reindeers

Have you ever stopped to think why St. Nicholas drives eight reindeer instead of one? You haven't? Well, let's pause for a moment and figure it out.

St. Nicholas is a mythical character, he rides in a mythical sleigh, carries a mythical bag, and drives mythical reindeer. The creators of St. Nicholas knew that one reindeer would do the job, but in order to make the character more impressive and longer remembered, they hitched a matched unit of eight to the sleigh.

Stonewall

Stonewall, Dec. 4.- Quite a number of farmers from here sold tobacco in Lynchburg on opening day.

Owen Carson had bad luck last Saturday night. One of his fine horses was struck by a car and broke his leg and he had to be killed.

J.E. Chick of Spout Spring spent last Thursday P. M. with his brother, E. L. Chick and Mrs. Chick.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Burnette spent last week-end with his sisters in Roanoke.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Carson spent last Sunday with her brothers, Jessie and Tommie Davidson.

Mr. and Mrs. Wash Wheeler of Rustburg visited Mr. and Mrs. Tilton Lee Sunday. They brought little Winfred and Waln Lee home. They had been visiting them over the week-end.

Mrs. Anna Dive has returned home after visiting her sisters for a week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Beard had as their dinner guests on Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beard and son, Lawrence, of Appomattox, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beard, of Norfolk, Mr. and Mrs. Vinton Epperly and baby, of Washington, and Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Johnson and son, of Spout Spring.

Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Turner spent Saturday in Lynchburg. They called to see Mr. Perrow, who is very ill in a hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Judy, of Harrisonburg spent the week-end with her father, J. O. Davidson.

Present sugar ration continues.

Government to discontinue use of grain for making rubber.

Polish press says that Russia has conquered the atom.

Miami and Holy Cross to play in Orange Bowl.

Italy names Di Gasperi as new premier.

Premier of Iran threatens to resign.

Dark tobacco markets will stay open three weeks before Christmas holidays.

IN ADDITION to gifts you've noted on your Christmas list, you're also shopping for the essential household accessories which make for happy holiday entertaining when family and friends gather for festive evenings. Then remember, Lady-With-a-List . . . be sure you'll have plenty of light bulbs, of the proper size, to fill those empty sockets . . . for good lighting can be decorative as well as essential to better sight! So . . . when you hang the holly and drape the tinsel . . . fill those sockets, too . . . and be sure all bulbs and fixtures are sparkling clean for maximum GOOD lighting!
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Bethany

Bethany, Dec. 4.- S. Sgt. Edwin Paulette has returned home from overseas, with his discharge.

Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Paulette visited Mrs. Mildred Inge on Saturday evening.

Rev. and Mrs. Carl Collins visited in the community last week.

Cpl. Dwight Paulette has returned home with his discharge, after serving overseas.

Mrs. Bessie Taylor, Miss Pat Taylor, B. C. Taylor and First Lt. Elizabeth Taylor of the Field Hospital, spent the week-end in the home of Mrs. Larkin Harvey.

Pfc. Jimmie Harvey at at home with his discharge after serving overseas.

Mrs. Corinne Paulette, Gene and Jerry Paulette, ex- S. Sgt. Edwin Paulette, of Appomattox, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Joe Paulette and children, of Prospect visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Paulette recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Cary Lowery and son, of Lynchburg visited Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Paulette Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Paulette spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Paulette.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Paulette, Bruce, Ashby, Dwight and James Paulette and Miss Hilda Jefferson visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Paulette Tuesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Moore, of Madisonville visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Paulette recently.

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Rocks News

Rocks, Dec. 3.- Rev. Carl Collins taught here last week, the book, "The Improvement of Teaching in the Sunday School," for Rocks Baptist Sunday School. A large number took the class.

On Friday night he also taught a W. M. U. mission study class to the Evergreen field of churches. A large number from each church was present.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Meadows, of Roanoke were visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Roach Thanksgiving.

Rocks B. T. U. had a social in the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Ranson Thanksgiving night.

Miss Annie C. Martin, who has been quite sick, is able to be out again.

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Taylor and children spent Tuesday in Lynchburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Anderson, of Arlington have been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Anderson.

Mrs. A. T. Anderson went with Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Anderson to Montgomery, W. Va. last week to see Mrs. W. R. Moore.

Melvin Garrette, of the Navy, is spending a 30-day leave with his mother, Mrs. J. A. Garrett, at Evergreen.

Jim Frank Ranson went to Darlington Hights Saturday afternoon to take his wife and daughter, where they spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Foster.

Herbert Goin killed a fine turkey last week. Also Lewis Dickerson killed one Friday.

Fire Fighters Are Just That and Nothing More

ST. LOUIS. — Mrs. Ralph Crowder almost solved the problem of getting in the fruit crop.

A large and productive tree in her back yard was laden with apricots. Unable to cope with the harvest herself, she called the fire department.

"There's an apricot tree in my back yard—" she told the fireman who answered the telephone. But the connection was cut off and a few moments later Mrs. Crowder was startled by the arrival of a ladder truck, which roared to a stop in front of her home.

"Where is that tree?" one of the firemen asked breathlessly. When he was told that Mrs. Crowder was offering to let the firemen pick fruit, he shook his head.

"We have no time to pick apricots," he explained. "There might be a fire somewhere and it would not look well for the fire department to be up in a tree picking fruit."

1,345 Calories New Diet Fixed for Reich

WIESBADEN, GERMANY. — The American military government trimmed the average German civilian ration for the next four weeks to 1,345 calories. The average civilian ration in September was 1,480 to 1,600 calories daily. Normal minimum health requirements are 2,000 calories a day.

Millions Being Moved to New Homes in Germany

FRANKFURT.—A huge migration involving the transplanting of some 10 million Germans to new homes and the restoration of several hundred thousand to their former home is under way.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters said that 500,000 Germans from Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland already have entered the American occupation zone.

Movement of 150,000 Germans from what now is the American zone in Austria back to their homes in other sections of the Reich also has started, officials said.

Sudeten Germans arriving in the American zone are being distributed as equitably as possible among German towns.

MANY TIME-SAVING IDEAS
IN GUIDE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL FARMERS, HOME OWNERS AND POULTRY RAISERS

A check list, or planning chart, which farmers say is of great help to them in increasing the efficiency of their farms, is one of the features of a 64-page booklet entitled "Sinclair Farm Time-Savers", now being offered without cost by Sinclair Refining Company.

The booklet includes a variety of practical and proved ideas for making the farm more profitable, more modern and easier of operation. The purpose of the booklet, according to the introduction, is to help make the most of new methods and materials that will make any farm, large or small, a better place to work and live.

The booklet gives a lot of basic information, such as the best way to mix cement, how to make electrical connections, how to protect and care for farm machines, how to build simple pieces of farm equipment, and improvements in the farm home.

In addition, it covers such subjects as better care of animals, first aid for animals, useful ideas for poultry raisers, insect control, household conveniences, painting of farm buildings, sewerage and water disposal, special jobs for tractors, water systems, weather forecasts, and countless modern "tips" to save time and money around the farm.

Miss Martha Harvey spent Monday night with Miss Annie Robertson.

Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Dickerson and son, of Brookneal spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dickerson, of Pamplin.

Friends are sorry to hear that Carl Almond is in the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Almond, of Appomattox and Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Almond went to Farmville last Sunday to see Carl Almond.

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Marsh went to Appomattox last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roach went to Farmville last Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. L. K. Williams will return from Washington Thursday. Mrs. Williams has just received a notice that her husband has been promoted to a Sergeant. Also, he left Tinian on November 19 for the U. S. A.

Rev. Cecil Carted, the new pastor, preached a very fine sermon at Rocks Church last night

Five banks in France are nationalized.

Pearl Harbor probe committee hears General Marshall.

Claim Chinese Communists are prepared to fight for 12 years.

Subscription rate: $1.50 a year, payable in advance.

Last week of Victory Loan drive.

Now—sweeter, tastier bread with FLEISCHMANN'S FRESH ACTIVE YEAST

It's so easy to bake delicious, smooth-textured loaves if you use Fleischmann's *active* fresh Yeast. This fresh yeast is *full-strength*. It goes *right to work* to help you get best baking results *every time*.
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